

As a practice of self-improvement, the City will commission consultants to review areas of service, including the functions of entire departments. This is a complex process as it requires a consultant to gain a thorough understanding of how service is provided. In the case of Zucker's review of the Planning and Development Review Department, staff followed its normal process to ensure that Zucker has a thorough understanding of PDRD. This includes reviewing Zucker's initial working chapters to validate procedural descriptions, references to division names, and other internal characteristics. It is imperative that any factual errors in the characterization of the department are corrected prior to a final report being issued. This helps ensure that the analysis and findings are sound.

Overall, it is staff's opinion that releasing any consultant's information prematurely and without proper vetting will distract from the analysis. In no way does the City ever seek to influence the analysis, opinion or findings of hired consultants.

While some have referred to the information in question as a "draft," it's important to note that the consultant has only provided working chapters for staff to review. Below you will find the original working chapters that have been provided thus far, which include commentary from both staff and the consultant. The consultant is still in the process of providing staff with working chapters. City staff anticipates the complete draft final report will be available this month.